

MAY
2019



Annual General Membership Meeting and Election

At the Ypsilanti Food Co-op, our Mission Statement is as follows:

"The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that Ypsilanti is a resilient, inclusive, thriving, and healthy community.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that the entire community has access to healthy food and products that are locally produced, organic, and non-GMO

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that Ypsilanti has a strong, vibrant local economy.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that our community is knowledgeable about sustainability, local economy, good food, and a cooperative economy.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that our community has a model for sustainable environmental and cooperative business practices.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that our member-owners, workers, and the public are part of a democratic, cooperative community.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op exists so that Ypsilanti has a thriving sense of community with a culture of openness, accessibility, and diversity".

This mission statement is what originally brought me to run for the Co-op board and it is why I am running again. What makes our community grocery, our Co-op, so great and sets us apart from any other "grocery store" is how we fundamentally strive to accomplish these practices.

All of this greatness aside. Today, I am going to be bringing to you my ideas of what a democratic community means to me. We often refer to cooperatives as "democratic enterprises or democratic communities." and again I ask what does that really mean? To put it shortly I believe that the Ypsilanti food co-op is owned and controlled by you, our member owners. Your vote matters. There are three candidates running in this year's election, for three open seats. The nominating committee thought that they were solid candidates who have proven themselves to be involved in community engagement and well versed in their roles as board members. They have been a huge asset to this board and the continued growth of our co-op. With the coming election we hope you all exercise your democratic responsibility and vote in this election as you would for any other. It is our goal to continue bringing you the cooperative principles of which we govern by to create a greater sense to our community. The Co-op and your Board of Directors are here to serve you, while keeping positive forward motion and growth of the store that we all love so deeply. All that said, to quote William Arthur Ward, "the more generous we are, the more joyous we become. The more cooperative we are, the more valuable we become. The more enthusiastic we are, the more productive we become. The more serving we are, the more prosperous we become."

We look forward to growing with you, finding more joy with you, and most importantly serving you!

~Susan Carter, Ypsilanti Co-op Board Vice President.

YFC Social



Annual General Membership Meeting:

Where: The Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

When: Tuesday May 21, 2019

6:00pm Gather & mingle and eat appetizers!

6:30pm Annual Meeting:

Updates on YFC's Annual Report, store updates
by Corinne Sikorski, General Manager

Board report by Cheryl Weber, board president

An update on our future and relevance

The election of our Board of Directors.

Our 2018 Annual Report will be distributed

7:30pm Dessert Potluck - **Please sign up if you will bring a dessert to pass.**
Please bring the ingredients list!

Our own deli kitchen will provide a light snack before the meeting to help you make it through the meeting without being hungry! Then after the meeting we will have a potluck of desserts, in the true YFC tradition! Bring your favorite dessert to share!

Some Highlights of 2018

In the Annual report you will learn a little more about some of the work that the YFC does to help make the Ypsilanti community and its people a great place to be while following our Ends. 2018 was a year of some positive growth in sales and in profits. We were awarded Best Natural Food Store in Washtenaw County, and positiveness was catchy.

Come learn more about how the bees are doing this year, and how you can watch them. While our bees did not make it through the winter again, two new hives will be set up, and we were able to harvest honey to sell. Staff are taking care of them and will report at the Annual Meeting.

Our community outreach had many opportunities with participation at various events. We attended four farmers markets last summer, and will continue at two of them this year. Monthly orientations and tastings continued allowing us to share information about the coop and our products.

New in 2017, we continued to administer Double Up Food Bucks in 2018, increasing access of Michigan produce to customers on EBT, continuing our mission of promoting good eating by more folks.

Our planning and work on expansion continues, with two grants, money in the bank, and plans moving along. Come learn how things are progressing and what is the hold up on that hot bar.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting for an in depth look at the year!!

How our Co-op Connects with our Mission and Vision

by Celeste McLellan, Ypsi Food Co-op Board Member and Corinne Sikorski, General Manager

Consumers in our community have many options when shopping for groceries and other household items. One big reason member-owners and other shoppers at our Ypsilanti Food Co-op choose us is because we take seriously the principles, values and practices expressed in our mission and ends since our inception in the 1970s. Those co-op values are exemplified through support of practices that include organic agriculture, fair trade, and goods produced with environmental awareness. Our mission statement includes these values, as we seek a more sustainable food system, the fair treatment of people, a cooperative economy and a healthy environment. For example, earlier this year our Co-op discontinued a product recently acquired by Nestlé (cited by Greenpeace as one of the worst single-use plastic polluters in the world) because of the policies of their company. Nestlé takes water from the Great Lakes basin for a minimal fee and sells it back, in small plastic single-use bottles, to consumers all over the world. Removing this product from our shelves is one of the many ways we as a co-op continually show concern for the well-being of our community by promoting policy that manages our environmental impact and the sustainability of our business. While there are many issues that are of concern to us about the products available to be sold, the concern created by plastic is a serious one.



As the world suffocates from its plastic addiction, a growing number of businesses are stepping up to the plate to reduce their plastic waste. We stopped selling single serve water in plastic bottles over 10 years ago in an attempt to limit plastic, although it is often inconvenient for customers. Other benefits of shopping at your food coop that support sustainability are the ability to buy from our bulk bins, reducing food waste in getting what you actually need, and reducing packaging materials. It took us a long time to even offer bags for groceries! Today we offer paper bags for single use as well as reuse of bags brought by customers.

Each year, enough plastic is thrown away to circle the earth a whopping four times. Despite that, just one-quarter of plastics produced in the U.S. is recycled even though recycling plastic takes 88 percent less energy than making it from raw materials. If just three-quarters of plastics were recycled, the Recycling Coalition of Utah says people could save an estimated 1 billion gallons of oil and 44 million cubic yards of landfill space annually.

"Every minute of every single day the equivalent of a truckload of plastic enters our oceans. Not only are these plastics hurting or killing marine animals, they are impacting all of us through our seafood, sea salt, tap water, and even the air we breathe," Greenpeace U.S.A. plastics campaigner David Pinsky told EcoWatch. "We know that we can't recycle our way out of this crisis, as only 9 percent of the plastics ever made have actually been recycled." Indeed, plastic has been found on every continent – including Antarctica – and at the bottom of the world's deepest waters.

Another concern we are working on here at your co-op is the recent finding about the use of PFAs, Per-fluoroalkyl substances, which have been used in packaging products since the 1940s. Studies have found that PFAS can accumulate in living organisms and the environment, and may be linked to cancer, developmental toxicity and immunotoxicity, as well as other health effects.



We are working with our packaging supplier of our deli containers to assure that our containers do not have the PFAS which are often used to create a liquid barrier on paper containers. We are assured that our soup cups, lids and coffee cups and lids are PFAS free. Our plastic containers for repack and for customer use, all of our deli containers and plastic bags are free from PFAS, and our coffee bags are being replaced.

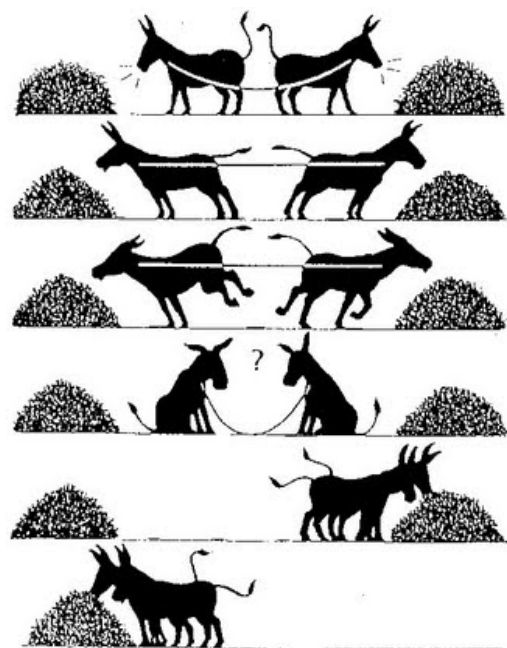
Because PFAS are so common in the environment, it is difficult to eliminate the risk of exposure, but some steps people can take include: Drinking filtered water. Eating more whole, plant-based foods, since PFAS accumulate in animal tissues. Avoid cooking with non-stick pans. Consider the consumer goods you use, especially those that are treated for water/stain resistance. Support government policies that protect people and the environment from industrial pollution. Vote for officials that support the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Food and Drug Administration.

Volunteering

Your food co-op has grown since the 1960s when all of the work being done was by volunteers...folks working together for a common goal: to obtain good food for themselves and their families. We opened a store, on Sheridan Street, run by only volunteers. Eventually the group realized we would be able to be more efficient with a paid staff, so by 1978 coordinators were hired. This evolved further to having a general manager with various staff positions to carry out our mission.

Volunteers continue to be a part of our mission, connecting our board, our staff, our members, and our community together. Volunteering can also help you reduce stress, find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, give an opportunity to use talents you don't get to use otherwise or even advance your career. At the co-op you'll also earn an extra discount. While we accept volunteers to help in the store, we especially desire volunteers to help with roles that we are unable to afford to hire for. This year we have the following opportunities:

Gardening: The north end River of Iris garden, the River Street boulevard, and our window boxes need help throughout the summer, with planting, weeding, and watering.



Kid Explorer Program: Our kid program that offers fresh fruit to kids each time they visit the co-op, could be expanded to more co-op fun and educational opportunities. Someone to help coordinate and present programs is desired to provide greater depth to our next generations of Eaters!

Educational Opportunities: We strive to inform our community about various topics, and would love if you have a topic on healthy living that you would like to share. We have a meeting room with plenty of room for a group!

Farmer's Market booths: We will be at the Cobblestone Farmers Market, Tuesdays in Ann Arbor, and Dixboro Farmers Market on Friday evening in Dixboro, and could use help setting up or taking down. We sell our breads and other baked goods, letting the greater community know about the co-op and the wonderful products we have.

Community Outreach: We will be at various events over the summer, including the Ypsi Fest, with a booth to share info about the coop. We will need plenty of help setting up and running booths.

We are open to a variety of talents, and if you are interested in sharing yours, please contact us at info@ypsifoodcoop.org. Whether your skill or interest is in writing or graphic design, computer input, or gardening or you just want to get involved, please take a moment to let us know!

2019 Voting Information:

Why is Voting Important?

Voting for your 2019 board of directors is very important, do you know why? Our world and co-op continuously change. We are very different since our beginnings: We now have associate members, an alcohol license and many other improvements that benefit our shoppers! The board of directors are the one's who vote on these changes. Voting for people you think will bring about the best positive changes while maintaining a strong, sustainable business, is one of the powers of our member-owners.

How to Vote

1. Please complete the ballots to vote for up to Three (3) board members. If you lose this ballot, you can get a blank one at the store.
2. **Put your ballot in an envelope with your name on the front (to verify membership).** If an envelope is received without a member's name on it, the vote will not be counted. You must be an active member by **5/14/19** in order to vote.
3. Place envelopes in the collection box in the store beginning **May 14th through May 21st, 2019 at 4pm** to vote in store.
4. Or, bring your ballot to the General Membership Meeting at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on Tuesday May 21, 2019 at 6:00pm. Ballots will be accepted through the General Membership Meeting until the call for votes.
5. Board members will verify membership on each envelope, remove the ballots from the envelope, and count the votes after they're separated from the names so that the names are not connected with specific ballots.
6. The results will be announced at the end of the meeting.

If you are planning to vote in this year's Board of Directors Elections you must be an active member/owner for the 2019 year by **Tuesday May 14th, 2019!**

Applications are available at the register! If you have any questions about your current member status ask at the register and the YFC staff will inform you of your current standing!

Gold Card members are full paid members.

BALLOT

2019 Board of Directors
(Vote for 3)

☐ Susan Carter

☐ Steve Somers

☐ Cheryl Weber

Learn about the candidates! Info will be in the store and on the website!

Ypsilanti Food Coop

312 N River, Ypsilanti MI
48198
734-483-1520

General Manager:

Corinne Sikorski
Corinne@ypsifoodcoop.org

Special Thanks to:

Our Board and all the staff,
volunteers and members

Printer:

Standard Printing, Ypsilanti, MI
Printed on 100% recycled paper
from the French Paper Company
of Niles, MI

Tuesday, May 7
Coop Board Meeting at 6:30 pm

Thursday May 16, 6:00pm
New Member Orientation
Join us in the store to learn more
about your membership!

Saturday May 18, 9:00am
Community Clean up Day—noon
Join us in the morning to help plant
and beautify our neighborhood! This
event has morphed from the original
Ypsi Pride Day, but is still about
helping create a great community.
The work in Depot Town includes
the flower beds in the median of Riv-

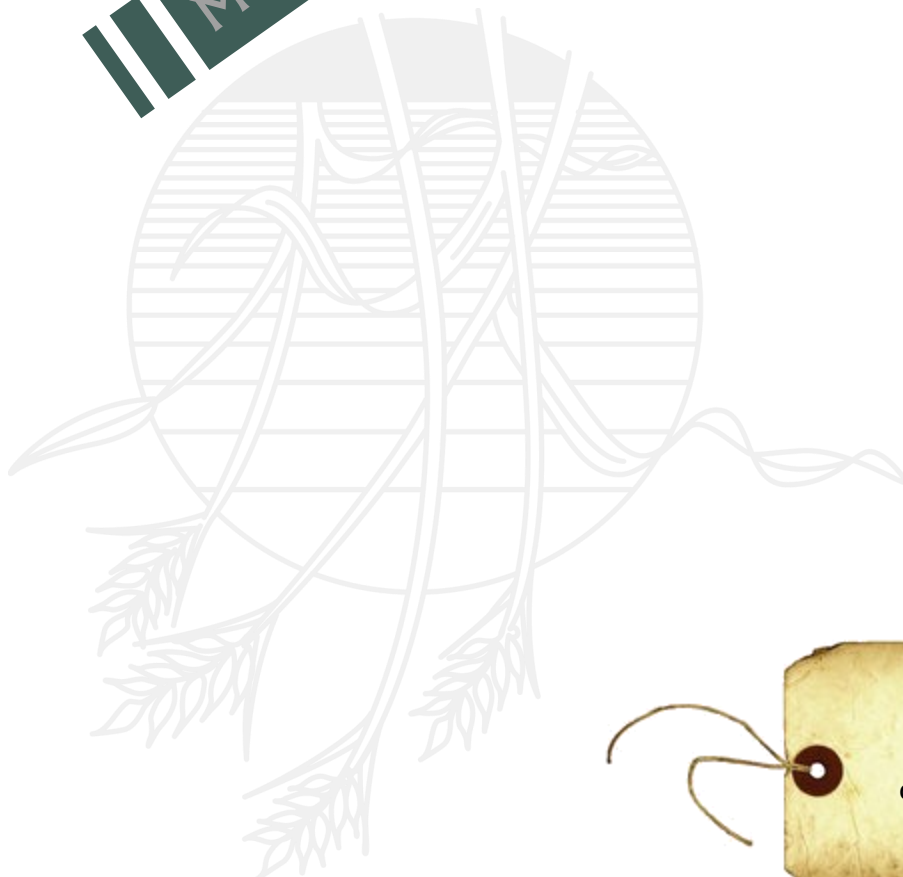
Tuesday May 21, 6:00pm
**Annual General
Membership Meeting**

Hear about 2018 and plans for 2019,
vote for your 2019 Board of Direc-
tors and join us for a dessert potluck
after the meeting. Light snacks and
appetizers will be served prior to the
meeting and all Coop shoppers and
members are welcome!

Monday May 27, 9:00am-3:00pm
Memorial Day

We are open half the day for your
picnic needs!

May Events



FROM:
The Ypsi Food Co-op
312 North River Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
www.ypsifoodcoop.org